

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

MASS.  
DOCS.  
COLL.

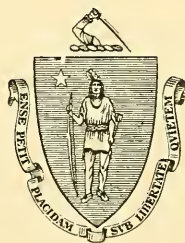
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF**

**Commissioner of Veterans' Services**

**for the year**

**1957**





# **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS' SERVICES

15 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 8

April 15, 1958

*To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:*

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 115, Section 2, General Laws, as amended, I submit to you the annual report of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services.

The part relating to Veterans' Benefits is for the calendar year 1956.

The part relating to the work of the Pension-Compensation, Rehabilitation and Hospital Contact Divisions, is for the calendar year ending December 31, 1957, and the report for the Blood Donor Service is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957.

This report also includes a detailed statement of the receipts, and expenditures for personnel and incidentals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES N. COLLATOS,

*Commissioner*

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 1957

RECEIPTS

Reimbursement for Services — Veterans' Benefits .....	\$3,625.81
Reimbursement for Services — Burials .....	4,080.51
Refund Previous Years .....	177.14

EXPENDITURES

Salaries of Commissioner and Deputies .....	24,100.65
Administrative Expense	
Permanent Employees .....	\$335,472.75
Accounts Payable .....	480.00
Temporary Employees .....	5,082.18
Accounts Payable .....	155.00
Expenses .....	31,261.75
Accounts Payable .....	4,286.16
Reimbursement to Cities and Towns on Account of Veterans' Benefits .....	4,324,045.36
Reimbursement to Cities and Towns on Account of War Allowance .....	5,604.63
Accounts Payable .....	16,960.00
Annuities to Blind and Paraplegic Veterans .....	89,959.35
Equipment — Bond Issue .....	651.00

Financial Statement Verified  
(Under requirements of C.7, S.19GL)

*Dated* June 2, 1958

By L. A. Burke, for the *Comptroller*

Approved for Publishing

Fred A. Moncewicz, *Comptroller*

## VETERANS' BENEFITS

## Chapter 115, General Laws, as amended

Application for Veterans' Benefits is filed in the city or town of legal settlement and referred by the local Agent to the Office of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services, with recommendation. The Commonwealth reimburses Cities and Towns in settled cases to the amount of one-half authorized and actually paid.

In the case of a veteran, or dependents, who are not settled, but have resided in the Commonwealth for three years next preceding the date of application, application is filed in the City or Town of residence, and the amount approved is reimbursed in full by the Commonwealth.

The number of persons aided during the year 1956 totaled 22,664 as follows:

Settled .....	22,081
State Settled .....	540
War Allowance .....	43

Veterans' Benefits approved on Monthly Returns for the calendar year 1956 are classified as follows:

## SETTLED CASES

<i>Civil War</i> .....	\$ 41,872.28
Widows	42
Children	7
Total	49

<i>Indian Campaigns</i> .....	4,280.28
Widows	8

<i>War with Spain</i> .....	241,955.50
Veterans	49
Widows	392
Mothers	3
Children	4
Total	448

<i>Mexican Border</i> .....	28,872.11
Veterans	21
Widows	16
Total	37

<i>World War I</i> .....	2,368,686.16
Veterans	3,215
Wives	96
Widows	2,156
Mothers	313
Fathers	90
Children	48
Total	5,918

<i>World War II</i> .....	5,594,319.98
Veterans	7,279
Wives	355
Widows	548

Mothers	3,817	
Fathers	970	
Children	98	
	<hr/>	
Total	13,067	
<i>Korean Emergency</i> .....		699,978.10
Veterans	1,562	
Wives	97	
Widows	27	
Mothers	631	
Fathers	233	
Children	4	
	<hr/>	
Total	2,554	
Total .....		<hr/> \$8,978,964.41

# BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS' BENEFITS DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1956:

	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Cost to Commonwealth</i>
Ordinary Benefits .....	\$6,561,231.32	\$3,280,615.66
Fuel .....	516,570.12	258,285.06
Doctor .....	262,088.45	131,044.225
Medication .....	355,183.66	177,591.83
Hospital .....	1,157,520.61	578,760.305
Dental .....	43,508.29	21,574.145
Miscellaneous .....	82,861.96	41,430.98
Approved prior to deductions for refunds .....	\$8,978,964.41	\$4,489,482.205

## STATE SETTLED — 541 CASES

<i>Spanish War</i> .....	\$	433.18
Widows	3	
Veterans	1	
	<hr/>	
Total	4	
<i>Mexican Border</i> .....		427.65
Widow	1	
<i>World War I</i> .....		27,455.99
Veterans	76	
Wives	4	
Widows	11	
Mothers	6	
Fathers	2	
Child	1	
	<hr/>	
Total	100	
<i>World War II</i> .....		111,276.60
Veterans	272	
Wives	6	
Widows	11	

Mothers	33	
Fathers	5	
	<hr/>	
Total	327	
<i>Korean Emergency</i> .....		16,856.92
Veterans	65	
Wives	3	
Mothers	35	
Fathers	4	
Widows	2	
	<hr/>	
Total	109	
Total expenditure State Settled cases .....		<hr/> \$ 156,450.34

BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS' BENEFITS (STATE SETTLED) DISBURSEMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1956:

Ordinary Benefits .....	\$120,743.41
Fuel .....	6,350.10
Doctor .....	2,315.35
Medication .....	3,515.50
Hospital .....	20,865.81
Dental .....	1,085.20
Miscellaneous .....	1,574.97
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$150,450.34

DETAIL OF BURIAL EXPENDITURES

Burial Allowance is provided in the case of a needy veteran and his dependents. The allowance is paid by the local authorities, on authorization of the State Office, and is reimbursed by the Commonwealth in the same manner as Veterans' Benefits.

The following represents the full amounts approved by the Commonwealth:

<i>Civil War</i> .....	\$	450.00
Widows	3	
<i>War with Spain</i> .....		
Veterans	11	2,613.77
Widows	7	
	<hr/>	
Total	18	
<i>World War I</i> .....		18,339.41
Veterans	82	
Wives	10	
Widows	11	
Mothers	12	
Fathers	9	
Children	1	
	<hr/>	
Total	125	

<i>Korean Emergency</i> .....	1,719.90
Veterans	1
Wife	1
Mothers	3
Fathers	7
Children	7
Total	19
Total expenditure settled cases .....	\$ 39,042.80

## STATE SETTLED

<i>Spanish War</i> .....	280.94
Veterans	2
<i>World War I</i> .....	1,515.88
Veterans	11
<i>World War II</i> .....	327.00
Veterans	2
Child	1
Total	3
Total expenditure State Settled cases .....	\$ 2,123.82

## Chapter 573, Acts of 1946, as amended (Repatriated dead)

Korean Emergency — 1 veteran .....	46.00
Reimbursement by the Commonwealth .....	\$ 21,293.94

Claims were filed with the Social Security Administration for Lump-Sum Death Payment under Section 202, paragraph g, of the Social Security Act. Reimbursements amounted to \$7,879.19 of which \$3,798.68 was paid to cities and towns.

## REIMBURSEMENT TO CITIES AND TOWNS FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS

<i>Monthly Returns</i>	<i>Date Disbursed</i>
January 1956	October 11, 1956
February 1956	November 9, 1956
March (plus Peabody for March & April) 1956	December 13, 1956
April 1956 (for Boston)	December 13, 1956
April 1956	January 17, 1957
May 1956	February 15, 1957
June 1956	March 15, 1957
July 1956	April 11, 1957
August 1956	May 2, 1957
September 1956	May 28, 1957
October 1956 (Boston and Quincy)	June 14, 1957
October 1956	June 26, 1957
November 1956	July 30, 1957
December 1956	August 30, 1957



## STATE WAR ALLOWANCE

State War Allowance was granted to the dependents of men serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. This was provided by Chapter 2, Acts of 1942, enacted by the Special Session of the Legislature.

Chapter 209 of the Acts of 1956 extended War Allowance to the dependent relatives of any person in the Armed Forces of the United States while the United States is engaged in hostilities under the flag of the United Nations, or in a state of war arising out of and as a result of such hostilities, until discharge of the serviceman or until January 31, 1957, whichever date is earlier.

State War Allowance is paid by cities and towns and is reimbursed in full by the Commonwealth.

<i>Expended in 1956</i>		\$4,216.90
Wives	12	
Mothers	23	
Fathers	8	
Total	43	

## ANNUITIES FOR PARAPLEGIC AND BLIND VETERANS

Chapter 115 of the General Laws, as amended by Chapter 660, Acts of 1949, Chapter 530, Acts of 1953, and Chapter 567, Acts of 1956, provides for the payment of an annuity of \$500 per annum, to be paid monthly, to the following:

A veteran who, according to the records of the Veterans Administration of the United States government, has suffered permanent impairment of vision of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 5/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of 5/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye; a veteran who is suffering from paraplegia and has permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, resulting from traumatic injury to the spinal cord or brain, sustained through enemy action, or accident while in such military or naval service, and a veteran who has permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, resulting from malaria, anemia, other forms of disease, tumors or poisoning which may produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from traumatic paraplegia and certified by said Veterans Administration to be service-connected.

A veteran to be eligible must have resided in Massachusetts at time of acceptance for War-time service.

The cost for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1957 was \$89,959.35.

## SPANISH WAR REIMBURSEMENT FUND

The sum of \$563.49 was expended during the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1957, under the provisions of Chapter 280, Acts of 1928.

## BLOOD DONOR SERVICE

Blood Donor Service was established in the Office of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services on July 1, 1948 with a Supervisor of Blood Donations in charge.

During the period from July 1, 1956 through June 30, 1957, there were approximately 3,453 donors. This represents about a two per cent increase over the previous year, which has been about the size of the increase for each year since the start of the program. At a cost of \$25.00 per pint, this represents a monetary figure of \$85,325. The blood was donated within borders of the

Commonwealth to (1) the Blood Program of the American Red Cross and (2) the Blood Bank of private, State and Federal hospitals. This figure represents only the actual number of pints of blood reported to this office. We feel certain that the number of actual donors is significantly higher but it has been impossible to devise a system where all donors will be reported to this office.

The blood needs of patients in private hospitals, Veterans Administration hospitals and Soldiers' Home were cared for. Also, a small percentage of patients in hospitals outside of the Commonwealth who are domiciled in Massachusetts. All qualified veterans and their dependents were covered to the full extent of our ability to do so.

## CONTACT OFFICE

The following is a summary of the work performed by the section of the Veterans' Services known as the Claims and Pension Division located at the Veterans Administration Regional Office, Room 634, One Beacon Street.

This Division is charged with the important function of carrying out the provisions of Chapter 599, as amended by the Acts of 1946, namely: assisting veterans and their dependents in obtaining all the benefits they are entitled to under the Federal Laws administered by the Veterans Administration.

This office through the medium of Power-of-Attorney procured compensation and pensions for veterans and their dependents during the year 1957 in the amount of \$1,896,204.76. In addition to this, we also processed 624 G. I. Loan cases in the amount of \$6,240,000.00. Figures indicated for compensation and pension for the year 1957 shows an increase over the previous year of \$273,493.36.

## ACTIVITIES PERFORMED DURING 1957

1. Personal visits by veterans and/or dependents to office .....	10,140
2. New claims for compensation and pension including live and death cases .....	3,276
3. Requests for review — old or disallowed claims .....	3,484
4. New claims for dental and medical Out-Patient Treatment .....	520
5. Arrangements for hospitalization .....	1,144
6. Arrangements made for Out-Patient Treatment .....	1,716
7. Arrangements made for Dental Treatment .....	156
8. Cases reviewed at Service Tables .....	6,760
9. Board appearances and hearings .....	2,917
10. Interview with agents .....	728
11. Federal insurance cases .....	832
12. Educational and Rehabilitation Problems .....	260
13. Handling physical evaluation board retirement cases for physical disability retirement .....	156
14. Loan Guaranty cases at \$10,000 .....	624
15. Checking Veterans Administration Finance for Agents .....	3,484
16. Requests for Civil Service letters .....	624
17. Requests for Tax Abatement letters for five months' period from June through October .....	1,541
18. Veterans' Benefits referred from Veterans Administration and Service Organizations .....	988
19. Assisting veterans in preparing State Bonus applications .....	104
20. Contacting Legal Division regarding Appointment of Fiduciary of incompetent veterans .....	676

## REHABILITATION DIVISION

## SUMMARY OF SERVICES

The value of benefits accrued to veterans and their dependents through the efforts of this Division include:

1. *Education and Training*

a. Application for training under P. L. 550 and P. L. 894 .....	831
b. Application for training under P. L. 16, P. L. 190 and P. L. 610 ....	28
c. Total actions for P. L. 550, P. L. 894, P. L. 15 .....	5,820
d. Certificates issued for above 7-1993 .....	826
e. Enrollment certificates received 7-1999 .....	824
f. Appeals filed — Hearings .....	17
g. Monthly reports filed — 7-1996a and 1996b .....	710
h. War Orphans Education Program — P. L. 634 .....	87
i. Out-of-State actions .....	83
j. Total amount issued on awards .....	\$961,476.26
k. Counseling applications filed .....	350

Due to the fact that we were to get the actual figures on all certificates of reasonable value, we have computed the figures for the year 1957 in dollars and cents at a minimum basis as follows:

2. *Loan Guaranty*

a. Certificates of eligibility .....	964
b. Restoration of entitlement .....	225
c. Certificates of reasonable value .....	964
d. Certificates of Guaranty .....	832
e. Total actions taken on loans .....	2,971
f. Approximated estimates of mortgages .....	\$8,925,000.00
g. Certificates of eligibility issued via Legislative requests .....	115
h. Actions taken via Legislative requests .....	434
i. Approximated estimate of Legislative loans .....	1,565,000.00

3. *Miscellaneous*

a. General information requests .....	220
b. Tax and Civil Service letters .....	473
c. Folders transferred — in and out .....	78
d. Finance queries re Compensation, Pension, Subsistence, overpay- ments, Education and Home Loans .....	4,834

## HOSPITAL CONTACT DIVISION

This Division is dedicated to service to veterans within the hospitals and institutions of the Commonwealth and the Veterans Administration as directed by the Office of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services, for the purpose of securing Federal compensation, pension and medical benefits, as well as State administered benefits to which they may be entitled.

Various departments of the Commonwealth, including Mental Health, Public Health, Public Welfare and Correction, are constantly seeking the assistance of the Unit in obtaining these benefits for veterans under their care. The Department of Health alone is presently caring for approximately 1,500 veterans, with the records reflecting an admission and discharge rate of about 2,000 annually. Visits are made to these hospitals to interview veterans and hospital staff members; to review records and case histories to acquire information and evidence useful in the development of claims for Federal benefits. As directed by the Office of the Commissioner visits are made to private and Veterans Ad-

ministration Hospitals to interview patients and hospital officials for the purpose of assisting and advising in the development of claims for VA benefits, to discuss medical and other problems and to obtain medical reports for rating purposes.

On many occasions Local Agents of Veterans' Services enlist the cooperation of the Unit in securing pensions and compensation awards for the dependents of hospitalized veterans, thus alleviating expense to the community, and to assist in effecting admissions and transfers to VA hospitals. This Unit is often requested to negotiate with the Office of the VA Chief Attorney for the appointment of guardians and fiduciaries in the release of funds withheld for the benefit of incompetent veterans and their dependents.

This Division receives numerous requests for assistance in achieving admissions to VA hospitals for treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders. VA officials have been most cooperative in extending every courtesy and consideration on requests by this Office for admissions and transfers from State Hospitals to VA Hospitals. A gratifying measure of success has rewarded the efforts of the Department in accomplishing admissions and transfers of service-connected cases with a minimum of delay. VA Hospitals which accept neuropsychiatric patients in Massachusetts are operating at capacity and facilities simply do not exist for accommodation of all who seek admission to such hospitals. Accordingly, a priority system is prescribed by VA Central Office to govern and control admissions where applications exceed available facilities. Principally non-service-connected applications are affected by the priority system which determines the positions such applications will occupy on the waiting list for admission. In fairness to all concerned, VA Hospitals adhere closely to the priority system. Delay must always be expected on applications for non-service-connected admission to VA Neuropsychiatric Hospitals.

## LEGISLATION IN 1957 AMENDING CHAPTER 115, GENERAL LAWS

### *Chapter 143*

An Act relative to the care of Veterans' graves.

### *Chapter 158*

An Act requiring credit unions to furnish certain information on demand in Veterans' Benefits cases.

### *Chapter 744*

An Act relative to the rights, benefits and privileges of certain veterans and their dependents.

### *Chapter 749*

An Act providing that a committee of the Executive Council shall hold public hearings, if so requested, on certain appeals from decisions of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services.